

Topic	God Will Surely Come
Reference	Isaiah 35: 1-10
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At this time of prophecy, Isaiah 35, Israel was split into two nations, the northern is called Israel still and the southern is called Judah and by this time Israel was already destroyed, it was taken over by neighboring countries and Judah is on the brink of destruction, it is 10 years before they get attacked and Isaiah has been warning them and have been passing judgment on them, declaring that God will judge you, unless you repent with sackcloth and ashes, God will send enemies to destroy you and the reason he is sending enemies to destroy is so that there will be a remnant that is pure and holy. So unless you repent, you will face destruction that has been Isaiah's message, but here he gives a message of hope that one day God will come and turn everything around. They will return from exile and they will return to Zion with singing and that events did happen, Isaiah proved to be a prophet of God but that event only foreshadows the kingdom of Christ and his coming, that one day all of us will be rescued by Christ himself and we will return to Zion, our heavenly home with singing, but until then we live in a fallen world, a world broken by sin, a world troubled with much grief and every day we deal with the consequences of our own sin and the sin of others, but one day there will be a reversal, our mourning will turn to joy; our sorrow will turn into dancing because our God will surely come.

How has life been this year? How have been? Has life treated you well or are you going through many trials and many tribulations or how is your faith, how is your walk with Jesus, has it been steadily growing and improving or has there been ups and downs like a rollercoaster ride. This is a message of hope for you. May be you feel like, I am pretty content right now, life is good, I am good, is all good and good, I don't need Jesus to do anything more for me, I am pretty settled, I am pretty content and I will say that's great and wonderful, is good to have contentment but would you spare a thought for your neighbor, would you spare a thought for the people around you. In FBC alone, we have lost so many people this year. We have lost brothers, mothers, fathers and grandchildren. It has been a heartbreaking year and though Christmas can be a time of celebration, a distraction from all the sadness in life, for some it can be a steep reminder of the pain we have felt and the loss that we are experiencing. So this message is for you, if you are weary and you are fearful for the future, our God will surely come and he will make all things right again.

In our text we see three different categories

1. Creation renewed

2. Enemies defeated
3. The weak rescued

CREATION RENEWED:

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

It talks about the desert turning into a field of flowers, like the desert from sand it will just turn to grass, blooming beautiful. It says that Lebanon and Sharon and Carmel will return to its former glory and then

6 Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

So we have waters gushing out of the wilderness like a burst pipe beside the highway. There is image of huge reversal, overcoming impossibilities and the question we have to ask when we deal with this text, did Isaiah mean it metaphorically or did he mean it literally. Is this spiritual or is this physical and the answer would be yes, it is both. When Isaiah pronounced judgment on Judah, he says the enemies will conquer and then the land will be desecrated, the forests will be chopped down, the rivers will go dry, the enemies will loot the land, it will become infertile, it will become bad. The land will just go bad; the land will suffer because of the sin of man. It reminds us of Genesis 3:

When God cursed the ground because of the sin of Adam and Eve. In Romans 8 Paul talks about that how the whole creation was subjected to frustration and is eagerly awaiting for liberation and that liberation comes when the children of God receive adoption. It means when the relationship with God and his people is finally restored, only then the creation will be liberated, the creation will not be frustrated anymore. So when we see a desert it should remind us of our spiritual dryness. When we see a desert, it should remind us of our moral bankruptcy, our separation from God, it is real just as the sand is real in the desert so is our separation from God because of sin. When we see natural disaster, we should be reminded that the world isn't as it should be. The world is broken because of sin. People are broken because of sin, but one day God will surely come and everything will be made alright again.

When Isaiah says righteousness will be like water covering the sea, righteousness will be restored, goodness will be restored, that day will come when our God comes in his glory and splendor. They

will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Even now the heavens tell of the glory of God, the sky proclaims the work of his hand, even now but also so much more amazing will creation be when the world encounters the glory of God. In Revelations 21 it says, *there will be no more curse and it says, there will be no more night, they will not need the light of the lamb or the light of the sun for the Lord God will give them light.* That means God himself will be the son for the earth and for all who inhabit it and they will reign for ever and ever. Even now, we see the glories of God but all so much more when he comes again. Even now lives are being changed and lives are being transformed. I have heard stories of drug addicts changing their lives because of Jesus, becoming family man, raising up good God-loving children. I heard stories of drug lords and mobster heads becoming Christians and they start to serve the church as well. All these are stories of Sauls becoming Pauls and you heard those stories, yes, that's the glory of God. That's what happens when people encounter the glory of God but all so much more when God comes again, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Do you feel empty? Is your soul thirsty? Do you feel like your life is walking along the desert, journeying in the desert and you thought you water and with all your might you run to it, you gush to it only to find out that it was just a mirage, it was not a pool of water. Are you drinking from a source that always runs dry? Have you drink you feel like you got satisfaction but it doesn't satisfy you, because you are still thirsty. Jesus says, come to me, if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, whoever believes in me as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow out from within him. Jesus is the water gushing out of the wilderness and he can give the satisfaction to our souls need now and all so much more when he comes again in his full glory. Creation will be renewed.

OUR ENEMIES DEFEATED

3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, 10 and those the Lord has rescued will return.

We have this image of a hero coming to save the day, when the odds are just crashing down on us like all hope is gone, suddenly there is someone bursting the door, breaking the chains and coming to rescue, the hero comes to save the day, the oppressed, the chained, the enslaved are set free, the oppressors are defeated, the enemies are destroyed.

The nation of Judah did they not have enemies, their neighbors were their enemies, just because they hated God, they hated the people of God and want to seek their destruction. They are seeking to invade them, to conquer them, to destroy their land, to send them scattered, to make them not a people anymore. They want to wipe out the nation of Judah and Israel and so the Israelites were literally oppressed. In the Book of Judges, it says that, they don't dare to leave their houses, they just hide there and so when they are hungry they have to sneak out to look out for food, when they want to meet people they have to sneak out and travel and because of that a lot of crime happens, they were oppressed.

Are there oppresses in our lives today?

Yes, Christians all around the world continue to suffer oppression and persecution, just because they bear the name of Jesus. According to Open Doors World Watch List, 215 million Christians face intimidation, imprisonment and even death. That's 1 in 12 Christians around the world that face persecution.

We have persecution and oppression and one day God is going to lift the oppression. We have a spiritual enemy too. 1-Peter 5:8 *your adversary the devil crawls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*, and one day our God will come with vengeance, he will come with divine retribution, he will come with justice, he will set the victims free, he will redeem, he will rescue, our God comes as a hero. Oppression also stems in society and it is real. People are cheated in all fields of life. People are targeted on internet, school and society. One day, God will come with vengeance, one day God will come with flying divine retribution, God will set the captives free, God will heal the victims.

What about the enemy within?

We have enemies from outside, we have enemies close by and we have enemies within, we fight within ourselves, there is a war that is within ourselves. The things that we know we are supposed to do, we don't want to do, we want to do but we kind of really don't want to do. we want to be good but we also kind of really want to be bad. We know we are supposed to spend more time with our aging parents but we are lazy, we know we shouldn't be judgmental, we shouldn't target and gossip about people but it just makes us feel good inside. We know we are not supposed to boast about our own goodness and our own good works but we just need to look good. There is an enemy within. In the words of a modern day poet, he writes

*I am my own affliction
I am my own disease
There ain't no drug that they could sell
Ah there ain't no drugs to make me well
There ain't no drug
It's not enough
There ain't no drug
The sickness is myself*

It is not enemy that is attacking from outside, its inside, it is me, I am my worse enemy. I am mourning against myself. There is a good renewed nature but then there is still that sinful nature that refuses to die, and is roaring within a Christian. Here is another modern day poet and he writes

*The same drink that gets me out the door
Is the same drink that puts me on the floor
And the new thing I wanna try some more
Is the same mistake I used to make before*

*If I'm helpless tell me now
Tell me now
And I'll stop trying to figure it out*

Helplessness, hopelessness of all this sin is causing me to act foolishly and I know it and yet I cannot help it. I know it is a mistake but I still want to do it. Do you feel that way sometimes, like there is a sin roaring against you. You are roaring against yourself. It is like an outsider but it is the insider, it is yourself.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

When Jesus Christ come again all wars end, all oppression ends because all his enemies are trampled under his feet when He comes again.

THE WEAK RESCUED

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Did Jesus not heal the blind and lame, he did. Jesus says whoever has ears let him hear. Jesus said, seeing that they don't see. The people who rejected his message and the people who didn't understand him he said, they see but they don't see. They have eyes but they don't, it is spiritual and physical healing that Jesus promises. Paul in his letter to the Ephesian church, he prays that the eyes of your heart be enlightened. Are you sick in your body, do you have pain constantly, do you and your loved ones suffer from sickness and you have to deal with constant pain? When Jesus comes he will heal all diseases.

Do you struggle with doubt? Do you sometimes want to see Jesus more clearly but is just blur, is just dim. When Jesus comes again your faith will be vindicated because you will see him clearly for who he is. When he comes physical blindness gone, spiritual blindness is gone

8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

The way to holiness is the way into the holy of holies, is the way to holiness himself. The holy one is the way to be restored back to heavenly father. Isaiah says, it is a safe way, no lion there, no people will come and harass you there or tempt you there, it is a safe heaven, it is a safe path to God and no unclean or wicked fool will be there and you will say that's the problem, unclean and wickedful will be there, as I am unclean, I am wicked and I am a fool.

If you say that what God says he will do will surely be done when he comes, I think it will not be done for me, I think it will be done towards me, all that divine retribution will come upon me because I am unclean, I am wicked and I am a fool. Do you know what God did for dirty wicked fools, he sent his son Jesus, that's what Christmas is all about. He sent his son Jesus to be born in a sin tainted world, to be rejected by fools who did not recognize their salvation or recognize their hero and to be killed by wicked man.

Jesus was born in a manger, was one of the insanitariest places to give birth to a child. Jesus was born facing sickness, he was born in the midst of poverty and at a very young age he had to flee his country because wicked man wanted to kill him because there was a Messiah to be born, he will take over the throne and these people wanted to keep their thrones and so a genocide, Jesus had to flee a genocide. He was a refugee. At a young age, Jesus had to become a refugee. Before he started his ministry, he was tempted by Satan himself, yet he did not sin. There was a time when he was talking, he was speaking and people hated his speech so much, they started to throw rocks at him,

Jesus was persecuted, he was rejected, he was bullied, he suffered betrayal by a close friend, a friend that was supposed to be by his side, protecting him, guarding him.

He suffered oppression under people of authority, they conducted an illegal trial and even that phony trial cannot convict him of a crime but they still charge him as a criminal, they still punished as a criminal and he was tortured by wicked man. When they tore his garments, he was sexually exploited, Jesus was on the cross bear naked. He suffered sexual abuse. We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weakness but we have one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin.

Friends, Jesus suffered everything that the sin-tainted world had to throw at him and yet he wasn't tainted, yet he was without sin. Jesus came to the place of unclean and yet he remained clean, in fact when he moved around in his ministry he cleansed people. They were the people that he wasn't supposed to touch, because if you touch them you will be unclean but yet when Jesus touched them, they became clean. Jesus remained holy and he made us holy. That's why he can be our hero. He sacrificed himself for us by paying the punishment for our sin and yet he did not remain dead. Jesus died to kill death. Three days later he rose again, he defeated our worse and final enemy death itself, O how powerful is our God.

If you feel like you are a sinner, you are unclean, you are wicked, you are a fool, repent and turn to Jesus, humble yourself and fall on the rock before the rock falls on you and crushes you. Come to Jesus today, he stretches out his hands today in mercy and grace. He says, I have come to give you life, I have come to love you, to offer you forgiveness, to offer you a way to God. Jesus is the great redeemer and rescuer of our souls. He is the way of holiness. He says, I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me. Jesus is the water gushing out of the wilderness. He says, he who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. He is our God and as surely as God delivered the nation of Judah and Israel and brought them back to Zion and as surely as Jesus came and died and resurrected, he will surely come again and as surely as Jesus overcame the world and he overcame sin and death, when he comes he will make everything all right again.

I want to have that confidence that in my worst trials I can say that Jesus is my hope, I give thanks and Christians friends, brothers and sisters we have this ability that in our worse of times we have this power to not be overwhelmed, we are sorrowful yet we still can rejoice, we are not broken, we are not annihilated, we are not completely destroyed, our heart aches, our heart breaks but we still have this hope of a future because our God will surely come again and when he comes he will make

everything alright again and you can offer people this hope. This Christmas you can offer this hope to someone.